

Saturday - September 23, 1978

We awoke each morning to another beautiful and exciting day. Tonight was the big reunion. After breakfast, the motor coach was always there with Paul, Margaret, the boys and Sister Hart to greet us as we traveled to the many points of interest. Paul graciously answered all our questions and told us all the interesting facts about Switzerland and helped us keep our genealogy straight. Hans Steiger was driving the motor coach this day. Paul passed the little brown bag down the isle and collected F 7.50 per person for the reunion dinner that night.

As we drove through the village of Wimmes, the home of our friends, Oscar and Lydia Raeber, we were told that between 15 and 26 thousand geraniums are sold in the Bernese Geranium Market during each Swiss holiday. We were also told that the knobs on the roof tops were there to melt the snow in the winter. We arrived at the Kirche Erlanbach in Simmental. It took fifteen minutes to walk to the church and climb fifty steps. Prior to 1528, it was a Catholic church. The Kunz people of Erlanbach have deep roots in this church. Beet Kunz (male form of "Beatrice") and Froneg (Veronika) Hiltbrand, our first recorded ancestors, were married about 1575. It is the first existing record in this area. It is possible they were christened in the Catholic church before the Reformation.

Peter Kunz, our relative, was the first Bernese Priest reformer to go back to the original Church of Christ. After the Reformation, the local Priests wanted to destroy all the statues and paintings left in the churches. Peter Kunz couldn't take time for that. He had the whole church whitewashed, making it possible for others, at a much later date, to restore the priceless fresco paintings in the church. An instrument like a dental tool was used to remove the whitewash and restore the fresco paintings. Peter Kunz was a contemporary of Zwingli, the Swiss Reformer, and Martin Luther, the German Reformer. On February 11, 1544, Peter Kunz became the Priest of the Bernese church and